

hope we can have more to report on that tomorrow. It appears at this stage there is no agreement on having any votes tomorrow, so we may have to finish our work tomorrow, beginning tomorrow night, very late.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNIZING THE END OF NUCLEAR TESTING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it has been 20 years since our Nation's final nuclear weapons test. "Divider" was the name appropriately given to the final test on September 23, 1992; 8 days later, President George Bush, Sr., declared a moratorium on testing that is still in place today. That last test, along with nearly 1,000 others, was carried out at the Nevada National Security Site, formerly known as the Nevada Test Site.

This site has a storied history; it was used intensively during the Cold War to test nuclear weapons in our fight against tyranny and is remembered by all Americans for the iconic images the atomic bomb continues to invoke. Testing weapons and building our nuclear arsenal was necessary, but there was a price to pay—and it was the health of our hard-working and patriotic Cold War veterans and the many people who lived downwind of the test site.

Since January 11, 1951, hundreds of thousands of men and women—including miners, millers, and haulers—played a critical role in building the nuclear deterrent that kept our Nation secure during the Cold War and still contributes to our national security today. These American heroes were on the front line of our national security. They served valiantly to help our Nation defend itself, but their personal sacrifice was immense. While serving their country honorably during one of the most dangerous conflicts in our Nation's history, many of Nevada's Cold War veterans sacrificed their health and well-being for their country.

After personally meeting with and listening to many unfortunate stories from brave Nevadans about illnesses they had gotten from their nuclear weapons work, I was pleased to help pass the bipartisan Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation

Program Act in 2000, as well as an expansion of the law in 2004. This important program provides vital monetary compensation and medical coverage to Nevada's test site workers suffering from radiation-induced cancers, beryllium disease, silicosis, and other illnesses caused by toxic chemicals.

In 2005, I began to hear from workers and survivors saying that they were being put through a seemingly endless stream of bureaucratic redtape only to be denied compensation in the end. I was enraged that workers who had developed cancer while protecting our Nation were being denied compensation simply because their employer failed to keep accurate records of each worker's radiation exposure.

While we succeeded in securing automatic compensation for workers during the atmospheric testing years, those who served their Nation during the underground testing years were let down by their country. I fought on their behalf and finally secured automatic compensation for thousands of workers during the underground testing years. I am proud that this important program resulted in the payment of almost \$500 million to 4,599 sick test site workers and their survivors. Nevada's Cold War heroes have made immeasurable contributions to our Nation's security, and the sacrifices they have made—to their health and their lives—make it impossible for us to ever adequately thank them.

Today, the Nevada National Security Site has taken on new roles to address 21st-century threats. This includes detecting dangerous weapons, treaty verification, fighting terrorism and nuclear smuggling, and training first responders. The site can even play a role in clean energy demonstration and development to meet our Nation's energy needs using a resource southern Nevada has an abundance of—sunshine. I am also proud of the growing non-proliferation mission at the Nevada National Security Site. These critical activities are playing a vital role in the Nation's arms control efforts while putting Nevadans to work making our Nation more secure.

There are many more opportunities to utilize the Nevada National Security Site's ultrasecure location to bolster out Nation's security. It is an installation whose relevance is timeless because we will always need a place to test new technologies, house sensitive materials and equipment, train our security forces, and know for sure that unwanted eyes are not watching.

Finally, I am proud that while we work to grow and modernize the mission of the Nevada National Security Site, the site's storied past and the people behind it will never be forgotten. The National Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and recently was named by Congress as a "National" museum. This important institution collects and publicly displays artifacts and documentation that tell

the stories of how the Nevada Test Site helped protect our country during the Cold War.

I am proud to stand here today to recognize this historic day in Nevada and America's history, marking 20 years since we have ended nuclear testing.

#### TRIBUTE TO DENNIS MEYERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man that will leave a legacy of firm economic performance, solid physician recruitment, and a commitment to nurture community partnerships in the hospitals of his area. Mr. Dennis Meyers of Clay County, KY, was named to the Clay County Days Wall of Fame in August 2012 for the amazing work he has accomplished in his community and the community's hospital, Manchester Memorial Hospital.

Dennis Meyers's spectacular working experience began as a pastor in 1969 in Nebraska and Illinois. In 1986, he decided on a change of career. He accepted a job as a registered nurse at Hanford Hospital. After 4 successful years, Dennis transferred to San Joaquin Community Hospital to fill the position of vice president. Dennis never stopped dreaming and believing. He continued his career to become chief operating officer and vice president of Manchester Memorial Hospital.

Dennis initiated numerous community-outreach programs, each serving as evidence to show the worth of this man and the dedication he displayed towards his community. Dennis introduced Mission in Motion, public health screenings, Live It Up!, and mission-outreach programs to enrich the Clay County community.

Dennis married Susan Meyers, who also works for the hospital. They have three children, who, like their father, hold nursing degrees. Dennis urges that success come to everyone in life. He strategizes on helping the community that is served by the hospital through Community Outreach and church programs.

At this time, I would like to ask my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to join me in honoring Mr. Dennis Meyers as he has been named to the Clay County Days Wall of Fame. His ambition and hard work ethic has improved and will continue to improve the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

A news story highlighting the accomplishments of Dennis Meyer was recently published in the Manchester Enterprise. I ask unanimous consent that said story be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Manchester Enterprise, August 30, 2012]

#### DENNIS MEYERS LED MANCHESTER MEMORIAL TO GROWTH

Clay County Days Hall of Fame inductee Dennis Meyers retired from the lead role at Manchester Memorial Hospital recently after 12 years in the position.

Meyers began as a pastor in 1969 in Nebraska and Illinois. In 1980, his career took a dramatic shift when he began working as a recreational therapist at the Battle Creek Sanitarium. In 1986, he transitioned to Hanford Hospital, where he worked as a registered nurse.

Four years later, Meyers accepted a position as vice president of nursing at San Joaquin Community Hospital.

From there, he became chief operating officer and vice president of nursing at Manchester Memorial, and then president and chief executive officer.

Several community outreach initiatives began under Meyers's direction, including Mission in Motion, public health screenings, Live It Up!, and mission-outreach programs that enrich the community.

Meyers holds a bachelor of arts in religion, a bachelor of science in nursing, and a master's of divinity from Andrews University.

He is married to Susan Meyers, who works for the hospital, and all three of his children hold nursing degrees.

Meyers plans to continue helping the community outreach and church programs.

#### TRIBUTE TO TESS LIPPS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an honored Kentuckian who has worked to better the Commonwealth. Mr. Tess Lipps of Clay County, KY, was named to the Clay County Days Wall of Fame in August 2012 for the extraordinary work he has accomplished in his community during his lifetime.

Tess Lipps was born July 8, 1947, in a section of Clay County known as Martin's Creek. Growing up with eight brothers and sisters, Tess and siblings learned what some would call the essentials in life: integrity to others and faith in God. Upon graduating from Clay County High School in 1964, Tess applied these essentials to his life.

In 1971, Tess married Barbara Hicks. From this critical point in life, Tess and Barb spent the next greater portion of their lives living to serve God and their community. They became youth leaders at the Manchester Pentecostal Church and taught a teenage boys' Sunday school class. In 1972, the couple opened the first Christian bookstore in the area in which they lived, the Gospel Variety Shoppe.

Tess continued to accomplish and succeed in a plethora of activities. He became an agent with the Commonwealth Insurance Company in 1984. Progressing through the ranks, he was promoted to sales manager and also branch manager. He retired from this position in 2003, but his work to the community did not cease.

In addition to serving as a board member of Agape and emcee of the Halleluiah Day Festivals, Tess answered his calling in life and became pastor of the Manchester Gospel Mission Church in 2006. Tess also formed the Clay County Cancer Coalition and the UPWARD Soccer Program in Clay County, despite some doubts from others. He was told that the community and church were too small to support such large programs. But Tess's faith allowed him to dream the impossible, and then accomplish that dream.

This year, 250 kids played soccer on a brandnew field in the community. Tess and Barb have been blessed beyond measure. The wish of Tess for the community is that all people can work together making greater opportunities for future generations. Mr. Tess Lipps has served his community well.

At this time, I would like to ask my colleagues in the Senate to join me in honoring Mr. Tess Lipps, an individual whose hard work and dedication to the community, combined with faith and persistence, has forever changed the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

A news story highlighting the achievements of Tess Lipps was recently published in the Manchester Enterprise. I ask unanimous consent that said story be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Manchester Enterprise, Aug. 30, 2012]

#### LIPPS KNOWN FOR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY CLAY COUNTY DAYS HALL OF FAME SPONSORED BY THE MANCHESTER ENTERPRISE

Tess Lipps, recognized this year as a Clay County Days Hall of Fame inductee, is known as a community volunteer who helped form the Clay County Cancer Coalition and UPWARD Soccer.

Lipps was born July 8, 1947, in the Martin's Creek Section of Clay County, along with eight brothers and sisters. His parents, Henry and Georgia Lipps, instilled honesty, faith, and a hard working ethic.

He attended a two-room school at Martin's Creek for seven years, and was part of the first graduating class of the new Goose Rock Elementary in 1960. He graduated from Clay County High School in 1964.

He and his wife, the former Barbara Hicks, were youth leaders at the Manchester Pentecostal Church for over 13 years, and taught a teenage boys' Sunday school class for the next 12 years.

In 1972, they opened the first Christian book store in the area, and operated it until they sold it in 1983.

He became an agent with Commonwealth Insurance in 1984, and served in that capacity until he was promoted to sales manager in 1997. He was promoted to branch manager in 2001, and was there until his retirement in 2003.

A dream of his was realized in January 2006 when he became pastor of the Manchester Gospel Mission Church.

In May of that year, he was part of a group of concerned citizens that formed the Clay County Cancer Coalition. He was president of the coalition for five years, stepping down in June of this year.

In 2009, he and the congregation of the church, with the leadership of Joe and Tracy Farmer, started the UPWARD Soccer Program. This year, 250 youth are playing on a new field, with a vision for greater things in the future.

Lipps and his wife have a son, a daughter, and two goddaughters, along with grandchildren.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USTR

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, William Shakespeare once said, "Nimble thought can jump both sea and land."

Today I wish to pay tribute to a U.S. Government agency whose thinking is

nimble and its actions as well. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

For 50 years, USTR's small but elite staff has been crossing the globe, over sea and land, to break down barriers to American exports, and they have helped develop a world linked by trade, a world governed by rules, to ensure a level playing field for our exporters and their workers.

USTR has been remarkably effective at that task. Since the creation of the Special Trade Representative in 1962, annual U.S. trade has grown from \$52.1 billion to \$4.8 trillion, contributing to economic growth of nearly 350 percent. USTR led the way through 20 FTA negotiations, multiple GATT and WTO Rounds, and countless bilateral trade negotiations in its quest to create opportunities abroad for U.S. businesses, workers, farmers and ranchers, in order to reach the 95 percent of global consumers who live outside the United States.

USTR spearheaded the effort to create the fundamental rules and structures that underpin the global trading system. It successfully concluded the Uruguay Round negotiations that created the World Trade Organization. The WTO contributed to an explosion of trade and extended the rules-based trading system to nearly every trading nation of the world.

Throughout it all, the dedicated officials at USTR have maintained their commitment to expanding economic growth through trade, for the benefit of all Americans. Through Democratic and Republican administrations, USTR officials have put the interests of all Americans first. And they have accomplished so much with so little. Never larger than its current strength of about 250 professionals, USTR has turned its small size into a virtue. USTR acts and reacts quickly, cutting through bureaucratic obstacles in the government to develop and execute market-opening strategies to break down barriers facing American exporters abroad.

As part of the Executive Office of the President, USTR is perfectly positioned to leverage the resources of the entire U.S. government and to integrate the full range of stakeholder interests on trade issues. And it is perfectly positioned, and has served well, as an effective and indispensable interlocutor with the U.S. Congress. USTR understands and respects Congress's constitutionally established role in the regulation of international trade. Through its close consultations with Capitol Hill, USTR presents to the world a trade policy that enjoys broad support.

USTR would not be as effective and it could not perform its role if housed elsewhere in the government or were it to become much larger and more bureaucratic. As others have observed over the years, if USTR did not exist in its current form, it would have to be reinvented.